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(c) how many schools were picketed and whether boys and girls attended these schools on the morning of the 17th August 1953;

(d) whether the district organization of the Scheduled Castes Federation informed the school authorities, the Director of Harijan Welfare, the Collectors of North Arcot and Salem, the Police and the Ministers about the picketing of schools on the day and expressed their condemnation of the new scheme of elementary education; and

(e) how many persons were arrested on the day while they were picketing in front of the schools?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) Some of the schools were picketed in North Arcot district by members of the Scheduled Castes Federation on 17th August 1953. No Harijan Welfare school was picketed in Salem district by the members of the Federation on 17th August 1953.

" (b) Five to ten members were picketing in front of each of the schools picketed.

" (c) 48 schools. There was normal attendance in a few of the schools picketed, while in some the children did not attend for the whole day or part of the day in the morning.

" (d) Notice of the proposed picketing was received from the District Organization by the Collector, the District Welfare Officer and the Headmasters of the Harijan Welfare schools concerned.

" (e) Two."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know the reason why the members of the Federation picketed these institutions? " 10-20 a.m.

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Perhaps they were picketing against the modified scheme of elementary education."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is it not a fact that the grievances of the members of the Federation had nothing to do with the modified scheme of elementary education but were with regard to lack of adequate facilities regarding food, clothing and scholarships? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I will have to ascertain the causes from the Secretary of the Federation who is seated by the side of the hon. Member himself."

Representation re. *punam cultivation in Malabar.*

* 1096 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" We have finished 161 questions. There is a short-notice question given notice of by Mr. T. C. Narayanan Nambiar. It may be answered."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" May I read the question Sir? It has been put by Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar—

(a) whether the Government have received recently any representation from the public and M.L.As. regarding poonam cultivation in Malabar; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

The answer to clauses (a) and (b) is as follows :—

" (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have carefully considered the representations and have issued instructions that, where lands have been trespassed upon for poonam cultivation and actually been used for such cultivation for the last three or four years, efforts may be made to make them available to the peasants and the requisite permits under section 5 of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act may be issued expeditiously. The Government have also issued directions to the Collector to consult peasants wherever possible to find out whether the demand for poonam cultivation is genuine.' "

MR. SPEAKER :—" Questions over."

[*Note*.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER.

MESSAGES FROM THE COUNCIL.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have to announce to the House the following messages, dated 18th May 1954, received from the Hon. Chairman, Madras Legislative Council :—

' (1) In accordance with rule 111 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Electricity Undertakings (Acquisition) Bill, 1954 (L.A. Bill No. 23 of 1954), as passed and agreed to by the Council on the 18th May 1954 without any amendment and signed by me. '

' (2) In accordance with rule 111 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications (Amendment) Bill, 1954 (L.A. Bill No. 24 of 1954), as passed and agreed to by the Council on the 18th May 1954 without any amendment and signed by me.'

' (3) I transmit a copy of the following motion passed to-day by the Madras Legislative Council concurring with the Madras Legislative Assembly in setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Chambers to consider the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 1954 (L.A. Bill No. 27 of 1954) :—

' That this House concurs in setting up a Joint Select Cnmmittee of both the Houses consisting of 23 members (15 members of the Assembly and 8 members of the Council) to consider the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 1954 (L.A. Bill No. 27 of 1954), and that the following members of this House be selected to serve on such a Joint Select Committee :—

(1) The Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam.

(2) Sri T. G. Krishnamoorthi.

(3) Sri T. Purushothama Mudaliar.

(4) Sri C. Marudavanam Pillai.

(5) Sri T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai.

(6) Sri M. P. Govinda Menon.

(7) Sri K. Bhashyam.

(8) Sri K. Balasubramania Iyer."

' (4) In accordance with rule 104 (1) of the Madras Council Rules, I have the honour to intimate that the amendment made by the Assembly in respect of the Courtallam Township Bill, 1954 (L.C. Bill No. 8 of 1954), was taken into consideration by the Council at its meeting held on the 18th May 1954 and that the Council has agreed to the amendment' "